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June 25, 2004

Mail Stop DD

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U. S. Patent Appl. No. 10/691,965
Filed: October 24, 2003 *Confirmation No. 6984*
For: **Sports Pole Mounting Structure**
Inventor: WHITE, *et al.*
Our Ref: 03563.0100.NPUS00

Sir:

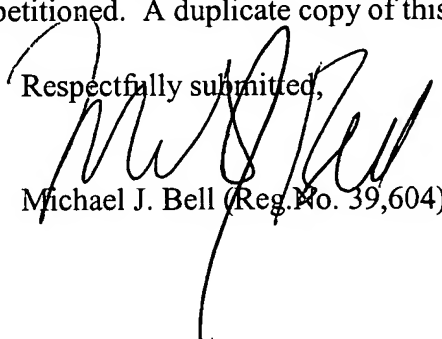
The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449 (3 pages) with 60 attached references; and
3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No.08-3038 referencing docket number 03563.0100.NPUS00. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Ronald WHITE, *et al.*

Appl. No.10/691,965

Filed: October 24, 2003

For: SPORTS POLE MOUNTING
STRUCTURE

Art Unit: 3662

Examiner: *To be assigned*

Atty. Docket: 03563.0100.NPUS00

Confirmation No.: 6984

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted

herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that had been cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed;
- ☐ a. Within three months of the U.S. filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d);
 - ☐ b. Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application;
 - ☒ c. Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits;
 - ☐ d. Before the mailing of a first Office Action after filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.115.

No statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee is required.

or;

- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period specified in paragraph 1(a)-1(d) above, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, or action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and
- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), or
 - ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), or

- ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i), and
- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), or
- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding International Patent Application PCT/US03/17261. An English language version of the International Search Report (ISR) is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present

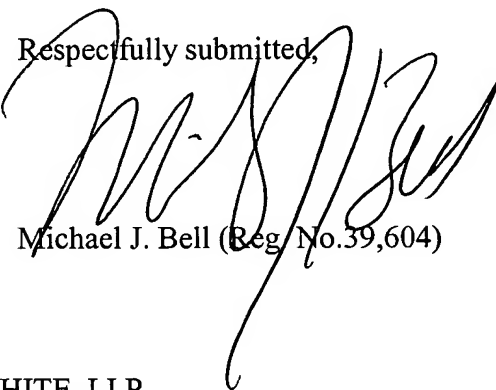
application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038 referencing docket number 03563.0100.NPUS00.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bell (Reg. No.39,604)

Date: June 25, 2004

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(202) 783-0800

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

PTO FORM 1449

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

03563.0100.NPUS00

APPLICATION NO.

10/691,965

APPLICANT

WHITE, *et al.*

FILING DATE

October 24, 2003

GROUP

3662

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	1.	87,015	02-1869	Varian	---	---	---
	2.	D. 139,311	10-1944	Gibson	D34-5	---	08-07-1944
	3.	225,683	03-1880	Brady	---	---	12-15-1879
	4.	405,658	06-1889	Campany	---	---	02-11-1889
	5.	432,043	07-1890	Heiland	---	---	04-23-1890
	6.	592,660	10-1897	Miller	---	---	04-25-1896
	7.	611,568	09-1898	Dohme	---	---	04-06-1898
	8.	753,709	03-1904	Jones	---	---	10-08-1903
	9.	837,820	12-1906	Folsom, <i>et al.</i>	---	---	01-06-1906
	10.	877,268	01-1908	Van Buren	---	---	10-03-1907
	11.	982,380	01-1911	Martin	---	---	01-24-1910
	12.	1,095,197	05-1914	Entemann	---	---	09-04-1913
	13.	1,309,806	07-1919	Medart	---	---	03-20-1919
	14.	1,409,155	03-1922	Covan	---	---	05-02-1921
	15.	1,564,109	12-1925	Ponsolle	---	---	08-12-1921
	16.	1,611,935	12/1926	Mitchell	---	---	05-25-1925
	17.	1,735,722	11-1929	Beard	---	---	06-28-1926
	18.	1,799,314	04-1931	Pfaff	---	---	02-28-1929
	19.	2,194,779	03-1940	Albach	273	1.5	09-11-1939
	20.	2,888,111	05-1959	Evans	189	26	07-29-1955
	21.	2,945,659	07-1960	McDonald	248	156	10-10-1957
	22.	3,170,721	02-1965	Wells, <i>et al.</i>	287	126	01-18-1962
	23.	3,339,869	09-1967	Anderson	248	48	10-23-1965
	24.	3,342,444	09-1967	Nelson	248	156	07-12-1965
	25.	3,417,525	12-1968	Dashio	52	160	11-12-1965
	26.	3,544,110	12-1970	Dickinson	273	1.5	07-02-1968
	27.	3,598,406	08-1971	Robinson	272	61	02-15-1968

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.





LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

PTO FORM 1449

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

03563.0100.NPUS00

APPLICATION NO.

10/691,965

APPLICANT

WHITE, et al.

FILING DATE

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GROUP

3662

28.	3,602,505	08-1971	Friend	273	1.5 R	11-26-1969
29.	3,612,287	10-1971	Maltese	211	86	10-13-1969
30.	3,767,355	10-1973	Anderson	431	295	01-06-1972
31.	3,843,079	10-1974	Reisling	248	44	10-09-1973
32.	4,133,154	01-1979	Ruzicka	52	298	10-03-1977
33.	4,307,887	12-1981	Weiss	273	411	08-18-1980
34.	4,522,394	06-1985	Broussard	273	1.5 R	06-27-1984
35.	4,896,651	01-1990	Kott	126	30	05-03-1989
36.	5,037,093	08-1991	Roark	273	1.5 R	01-31-1990
37.	5,039,043	08-1991	Hodge	248	125	04-05-1990
38.	5,090,165	02-1992	Kenny	52	165	03-17-1989
39.	5,112,023	05-1992	Sowers	248	519	06-12-1989
40.	5,156,395	10-1992	Smith	273	1.5	12-20-1991
41.	5,211,393	05-1993	Rolfs, et al.	273	1.5 R	10-16-1991
42.	5,316,315	05-1994	Roark	273	411	08-10-1993
43.	5,337,989	08-1994	Apple	248	519	03-02-1993
44.	5,417,511	05-1995	Warden	403	109	08-09-1993
45.	5,492,429	02-1996	Hodges	403	372	05-11-1992
46.	5,535,978	07-1996	Arturo E. Rodriguez, et al.	248	530	07-12-1994
47.	5,571,229	11-1996	Fitzsimmons, et al.	52	40	09-27-1994
48.	5,752,349	05-1998	Fitzsimmons, et al.	52	165	11-04-1996
49.	5,869,151	02-1999	Chong	428	18	06-26-1997
50.	5,901,525	05-1999	Dperinger	52	736.4	11-13-1998
51.	5,913,778	06-1999	Hying	52	40	02-21-1997
52.	6,041,559	03-2000	Schickert	52	165	11-20-1997

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 3 of 3